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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/816,486	03/31/2004	Satoshi Morizaki	2933AS-13	1219
22442	7590	05/13/2005		
SHERIDAN ROSS PC 1560 BROADWAY SUITE 1200 DENVER, CO 80202			EXAMINER LE, THANH TAM T	
			ART UNIT 2839	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 05/13/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

✓ A E F

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/816,486	MORIZAKI, SATOSHI	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Thanh-Tam T. Le	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 8, 9, 11 and 14-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4-7, 10, 12, 13 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/31/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-3, 8-9, 11 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Delaney, III et al. (6,848,933) in view of Debaigt (4,284,316).

Regarding claims 1, 11 and 14-15, Delaney, III et al., figures 27 and 28, disclose an actuator for connection to a harness (2720) including a signal line covered by a coating, the actuator comprising:

- a connector body (2410) including a first groove (2860) and an input terminal (2840) and an output terminal (2850) are arranged in the first groove; and
- a cover (2810) attached to the connector body to hold the harness with the connector body and having a second groove; wherein

the cover including a cutting portion (2820) arranged between the input and output terminals in the second groove to cut the signal line of the harness into two cut pieces when attaching the connector body and the cover to each other; and

the input and output terminals each penetrate through the coating of the signal line to contact one of the two cut pieces when attaching the connector body and the cover to each other.

Delaney, III et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the terminals each including two contact portions.

Debaigt, figure 1, discloses a terminal block having a contact blade (5) having a flared opening (51). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Delaney, III et al. to have the contact blade, as taught by Debaigt, in order to surround the conductor wires (Debaigt's abstract).

Regarding claims 2 and 16, Delaney, III et al., figure 27, disclose the cutting portion including an insulator (side edge of the cover) for preventing the two cut pieces from being electrically connected with each other.

Regarding claim 3, the insulator is integrally formed with the cover.

Regarding claim 8, Delaney, III et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the cutting portion is made of an insulative material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Delaney, III et al. to have the cutting portion is made of an insulative material, since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. In re Leshin, 125 USPQ 416, for better connection.

Regarding claim 9, Delaney, III et al. disclose the instant claimed invention as described above except for the cutting portion including a blade having a W-shaped upper end. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Delaney, III et al. to have the cutting portion including a blade having a W-shaped upper end, since such a modification would have involved a

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mere change in the size of a component. A change in size is generally recognized as being within the level of ordinary skill in the art. In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955) for better cutting.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 4-7, 10, 12-13 and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:


None of the reference discloses the insulator includes a distal end and a tapered portion narrows toward the distal end (claims 4 and 12); the cutting portion is insert molded in the connector body (claims 5 and 17); the harness includes two power supply lines, each covered by a coating, the power supply terminals each penetrates through the coating of each power supply line (claims 7 and 13) and a control circuit connected to a switch (claim 10), in combination with the other claimed elements of the embodiments recited.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

**Conclusion**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh-Tam T. Le whose telephone number is 571-272-2094. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30-5:00.
7. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
8. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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T. Le